

# Echo

## COMMENT

### Let's hope travellers move on peacefully

**S**OMETIMES the law moves so slowly it seems not to be moving at all. The case of the Dale Farm travellers' site went on for so long and so laboriously it seemed to have become a permanent fixture of the south Essex scene.

Time and again, just when matters finally seemed to have been brought to a conclusion, another legal loophole was found.

Once again, Basildon Council and Crays Hill would settle down wearily for another few years of stalemate. But now, at last, it really is all over bar the shouting.

The Law Lords, the highest court in the land, has upheld Basildon Council's eviction process. No further legal avenue exists for the Dale Farm travellers.

Talk of an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights is an illusion. The European court has already ruled the human right to a home does not overrule planning and conservation laws.

That is the issue at the nub of the Dale Farm affair: Travelling communities do not have the right to take over and develop green belt. On what grounds do they consider themselves exempt from laws and rules that govern every other citizen? Homelessness is not, and never has been, an issue.

Alternative accommodation is on offer, if travellers are prepared to compromise. In any case, as Echo reports have made clear, many Dale Farm travellers already own houses in other parts of the British Isles. For everyone's sake, it is to be hoped the travellers accept these facts, and evacuate Dale Farm peacefully.

Ch



■ Well-deserved  
Basildon Hos  
last year for

V  
£6

By GINA MARDEN  
gina.marden@nq

**V**OLUN  
Leag  
bars  
pital  
outpatient  
well known  
and a smile.

But few people  
working behind  
part of an a  
many of them  
the years, the  
£1million to bu  
hospital.

Their dedi  
bounds and fo  
has been cruc  
of the many si  
ed at the hosp  
Basildon Ho